

## A TRAGIC JOKE

## Moses Brooks Gould Killed by the Colored Servant of

**Gen. Waite.**

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**The Two Gentlemen Visit the Latter's Room and Play the**

## Role of Burglars, For the Purpose of Having a Little Fun and Teaching the Negro a

## Lesson.

### The Latter Falls into the Trap and Makes Search for the

## Supposed Robbers, Whom He Finally Finds Locked Up in an Adjoining Bath-

**Room.**

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**On Their Refusal to Come Out He Fired  
a Pistol with Deadly  
Result.**

**The Coroner's Jury Render a Verdict  
of Justifiable Homicide.**

**JOKED TO DEATH.**  
MOSES BROOKS GOULD,  
in business a young and prosperous merchant  
of this city, and in social life a jolly good fel-  
low and an inveterate practical joker, yesterday  
managed to joke himself into eternity. His  
lamentable fate stands a warning to all practical  
jokers.

okers, but, as such warnings in the past have gone by almost unheeded, it is impossible that even this last fatality will receive more than a passing notice, and to-morrow those whom the unfortunate young man made his boon companions and friends will be laughing as gayly

and punning and joking as earnestly as in days gone by. Upon some few of them, however, may perchance leave a lasting impression; if it does the young man's life will not have been sacrificed for naught. The killing was purely a result of one of those foolhardy attempts which a man will sometimes unthinkingly make.

to frighten some companion, or, perhaps, to test his temper, fidelity, or some other trait of character. It was the unhappy outcome of a buoyant spirit that was never unprepared for a pun or witticism, and ever on the alert for a practical joke. Such was the character of Sir Ronald that an intimate friend who stood

side him as he was dying yesterday, stated that those present that he had frequently known him to remain awake whilst thinking of some prank or joke which he intended to play upon some friend the next day. The play and romping

habits of his boyhood days had never been forgotten, except through a few short hours of business. With these recollections bright in his memory, he grieved over his dying friend as only a near and dear relative could have grieved. His mind was sorely depressed when he thought of the downfall part he played in 'the trial'.

This friend is Gen. J. M. Walte, a member of the  
Wholesale Brokerage and Commission firm doing  
business at Nos. 23 and 24 River street. Ma  
Walton and he were fast friends over the  
they met, some nine years ago, shortly  
after the former's arrival in this city.

...at at No. 297 Wabash avenue, and  
...being a bachelor, his commodious apartments  
...have been the frequent resort of his compan  
...ions when bent on having some fun. Mr.  
...Gould lived at the Palmer House, Room 251,  
...and his place of business was at No. 292 ad

Gen. Walte's stode. The two were grassed  
bottoms, and used what each possessed almost  
common. Yesterday forenoon Gen. Walte was  
out driving with Mr. Gould's horse, and upon  
returning through drove up to the store. Mr.  
Gould was busy at the time in the basement.

but after a word or two with his friend he told his foreman that he was going out for about ten minutes, and that if any one came in during his absence to detain him until he returned. The two then walked over to the station. What business they had there is not known.

Gen. Waite says they casually dropped in, but whatever their intent, it has nothing to do with the case in hand. The entrance to the flat is on the floor at the left-hand side of the head of the stairs leading up from the sidewalk. This door was found ajar. Gen. Waite put his head inside

...valled Joe, a colored servant and cook employed by him, and, receiving no reply, looked into the room. Everything was in proper shape, and it was concluded that Joe had gone out for a few moments and carelessly left the door open after him. Mr. Gould, realizing all this at a glance, was struck with the idea of playing

OWN OF HIS PRACTICAL JOKES  
upon Joe, and he hastily said: "Let's turn  
Joe a lesson, and make him believe the place  
was burglarized." The idea was a taking one  
and the two busied themselves for a moment  
in throwing the apartments into disorder.

A large beaver robe was snatched on the way and thrown out of sight behind an easy-chair. Some clothing and other articles were scattered about on the floor, and finally a lap-robe was thrown on the floor of the inner hallway, where Joe would surely see it upon entering. The two then retreated to a bathroom while

...the flat, and which is reached through the kitchen. In a moment hereafter Joe entered, and comprehending just what was intended, that burglars had been about, he rushed about to find some trace of them. The parlor and a small dining-room of which was searched first; then the sleeping apart-

ment, which is a sort of middle room; then the kitchen, and finally a small apartment off the kitchen. Two sides of this are formed by the wardrobe; a door in the third side opens into the bathroom and water-closet. As a final resort Joe tried this door. He felt somebody behind

"Who's in there! Come out o' there you scoundrels—you thieves. When you come out o' there I'll kill you you scoundrels." Making another unsuccessful effort to open the door, and hear-

ing more suppressed chuckling within, Joe ran out through the kitchen into the sleeping-room and armed himself with Gen. Waite's revolver which was kept in a small box on the dressing case. Rushing back to the door he placed the muzzle of the revolver close to the thinner

Mr. Gould was thus left alone in the apartment. He was leaning close against the door. He was leaning close against the door. He was leaning close against the door.

with the left shoulder and his left arm forced in the usual manner, to resist the colored man's attempt. Gen. Waite did not at first comprehend that a shot had been fired. He heard the sharp crack, but thought it was caused by Joe impatiently kicking at the door.































[illegible]







And seldom think to send a stamp  
The postman is prepay.  
KIDALE, CHESHIRE.      **ROBERT J. HALL.**



















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